

the state treasury as compensation for their extreme pain and suffering.

Mr. Speaker, the Japanese government has a legal as well as moral responsibility to face its history. To continue to indignantly brush away these women's claims adds insult to injury.

Stripped of their dignity, robbed of their honor, most of them were forced to live their lives carrying those horrific experiences with them covered under a veil of shame. I don't think they should do so any longer.

I believe the Japanese government must do whatever can be done to restore some dignity for these women.

The German government has formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust as well as other war crimes victims and has gone to great lengths to provide for their needs and recovery, but the Japanese government has yet to do so.

That is why, in the strongest possible terms, I call upon Japan to formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II and offer reparations no less than \$40,000 for each of the "comfort women". The surviving women are advanced in age, and time is of the essence. They have waited so long. They should wait no longer.

Critics may ask why we should even dredge up something that happened so long ago and halfway across the world?

Let me turn the critics' attention to the U.S. Constitution. It reads: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights . . ."

Mr. Speaker, this nation was an experiment. An experiment to form a new system of government. A government based on the then-radical concept that we all have certain God-given rights that should not be violated—each and every one of us in this world. It matters not that injustices were committed against women and girls in East Asia over fifty years ago or fifty minutes ago. There is no statute of limitation on crimes against humanity. When human rights are violated, the international community must act because we have a moral responsibility to do so.

Even today, we sometimes turn a blind eye to human rights. We sometimes take them for granted. We sometimes stay silent. But we shouldn't.

Two hundred years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "the laws of humanity make it a duty for nations, as well as individuals, to help those whom accident and distress have thrown upon them."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe we have a duty. We have a duty to help those who need our help. We have a duty to stand up for those who cannot stand up on their own. We have a duty to speak up for those who have no voices and to do what is just and what is right.

So, let us do what is just and what is right for the "comfort women" and other victims. Let us speak out for them. Let us stand up for them. Let us lend them our strength.

We must act and we must speak out, because in the end, people will remember not the words of their enemies, but the silence of their friends.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

We must not remain silent.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SCHIP BALANCED BUDGET REFINEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote against H.R. 3075, the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act. This bill makes several important restorations of cuts that were made to the Medicare program in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. However, this bill also includes a provision that would hurt New York City's teaching hospitals and render meaningless the other positive measures in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, America's hospitals are hurting and they need relief from the mammoth cuts made by the Balanced Act. I was one of the few lawmakers who voted against the Balanced Budget Act because I knew it would have these consequences. We should not be surprised that cutting over \$200 billion from Medicare would cause the quality of care to suffer in many hospitals. In New York State alone, it has been estimated that hospitals have lost over \$550 million so far and could face up to \$3 billion more in cuts over 5 years without new legislation. H.R. 3075 would make a small, but important, down payment toward restoring those cuts.

However, it is shameful that in the name of providing relief, this bill would create even more pain for New York. At the last minute, a provision was added to change the methodology by which Medicare reimburses teaching hospitals for their direct medical education costs from one based on actual cost to one based on national average costs. This would shift over \$45 million a year from New York State, where costs are well above the national average, to other parts of the country. In my district alone, teaching hospitals would lose almost \$12 million in the first five years this provision would be in effect. Teaching hospitals help train the next generation of physicians. It would be unwise to shortchange this investment for the future.

It is unfortunate that this provision was inserted at the last minute during the final negotiations, from which Democrats were frozen out. In addition, H.R. 3075 was brought up under suspension of the rules, allowing little debate and no opportunity to offer an amendment to rectify the situation.

America's hospitals need relief from the deep cuts made in 1997. I hope that we will find a way to do this without pitting states against each other.

November 8, 1999

H.R. 3196—FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 8, 1999

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, for the record, this is to clarify that the "no" vote I cast on November 5, 1999, against the foreign Operations Appropriations bill is by no means an indication that I am opposed to foreign aid for Israel, India, Greece, or Cyprus. Indeed, my voting record with regard to aid for these countries clearly exemplifies my strong support for them. Our country should value our relationships with these and other nations who are allies and partners for peace. In fact, I voted for the Young Amendment to the Foreign Operations bill because it is critical to our national security interests that we provide assistance to implement the Wye River Accord between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Jordan. The reason I voted against the Foreign Appropriations bill is because we, as a Nation, have an obligation to take care of our own families first and provide them with the aid they need especially in times of dire emergencies. The citizens of North Carolina are facing an imminent crisis in the wake of three major hurricanes that must be addressed immediately by Congress with the passage of an emergency relief bill. Until that happens, it is improper for us to place the needs of other countries ahead of the needs of our own taxpayers.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 900, GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report on S. 900, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act of 1999.

In July, the House passed its version of financial modernization (H.R. 10), with a broad bipartisan vote of 343-86. The Senate passed a partisan product (S. 900) by a narrow margin of 54-44, a bill which the White House indicated it would veto because of its negative impact on the national bank charter, highly problematic provisions on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and its nonexistent privacy protections.

The conference report necessarily represents a compromise between the two versions. But it is a good and balanced compromise. It effectively modernizes our financial system, while ensuring strong protections for consumers and communities. As a result, the Administration strongly supports the conference report.

There are clear gains for our financial services system, for consumers and for communities in this bill is enacted. There are clear losses if it is not.

Without this bill, banks will continue to expand into securities and insurance business